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NEWS RELEASE

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Statewide Unemployment Rate Down, Payroll Jobs Up in December

SPRINGFIELD – The Illinois Department of Employment Security (IDES) announced today that the unemployment rate fell -0.4 percentage point to 5.3 percent, while nonfarm payrolls increased by +22,800 in December, based on preliminary data provided by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) and released by IDES. The preliminary report for November monthly payrolls was revised from +19,500 to +19,900 jobs. The November unemployment rate was unchanged from the preliminary report, remaining at 5.7 percent.

The December payroll jobs estimate and unemployment rate reflects activity for the week including the 12th. The BLS has published [FAQs](#) for the December payroll jobs and the unemployment rate.

In December, the three industry sectors with the largest over-the-month gains in employment were: Professional and Business Services (+9,400), Trade, Transportation and Utilities (+8,500), and Leisure and Hospitality (+2,200). The industry sectors that reported monthly payroll declines were: Financial Activities (-1,800), Educational and Health Services (-300), and Government (-100).

“Today’s data reflects continued encouraging growth across Illinois’ economy,” said **Deputy Governor Andy Manar**. “Illinois will continue to take collaborative steps to strengthen our workforce and connect workers with employers across the state. IDES encourages job seekers and businesses to utilize tools such as [IllinoisJobLink.com](https://illinoisjoblink.com), Illinois’ free and accessible job board with over 160,000 available jobs.”

“December payroll numbers are another positive sign for Illinois’ job growth reflecting an ongoing recovery in some of the industries most impacted by the pandemic, such as transportation and hospitality,” said **DCEO Acting Director Sylvia I. Garcia**. “The data shows that under Governor Pritzker’s leadership, economic recovery efforts that include investments across Illinois in small businesses, workforce development, and capital development projects are working to bring back jobs.”

The state’s unemployment rate was +1.4 percentage points higher than the national unemployment rate reported for December, which was 3.9 percent, down -0.3 percentage point from the previous month. The Illinois unemployment rate was down -2.7 percentage points from a year ago when it was at 8.0 percent.

Compared to a year ago, nonfarm payroll employment increased by +262,600 jobs, with gains across nearly all major industries. The industry groups with the largest jobs increases were: Leisure and Hospitality (+126,000), Trade, Transportation and Utilities (+48,300), and Professional and Business Services (+28,600). Financial Activities (-5,000) was the only industry group that reported jobs losses. In December, total nonfarm payrolls were up +4.7 percent over-the-year in Illinois and up +4.5 percent in the nation.

The number of unemployed workers was down from the prior month, a -6.0 percent decrease to 333,100, and was down -32.1 percent over the same month for one year ago. The labor force was up +0.5 percent over-the-month and up +2.0 percent over-the-year. The unemployment rate identifies those individuals who are out of work and seeking employment. An individual who exhausts or is ineligible for benefits is still reflected in the unemployment rate if they actively seek work.

In May 2020, Governor Pritzker launched [Get Hired Illinois](https://gethiredillinois.com), a new one-stop-shop website to help connect job seekers with hiring employers in real time. The site features virtual job fairs, no-cost virtual training, and includes [IllinoisJobLink.com](https://illinoisjoblink.com) (IJL), the state’s largest job search engine, which recently showed 48,315 posted resumes with 161,281 available jobs.

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Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rates

	Dec-21	Nov-21	Dec-20	3-month Moving Average	Over-the- Month Change	Over-the- Year Change
Illinois	5.3%	5.7%	8.0%	5.6%	-0.4	-2.7
U.S.	3.9%	4.2%	6.7%	4.2%	-0.3	-2.8

Illinois Seasonally Adjusted Nonfarm Jobs – by Major Industry

	Dec-21 Current *	Nov-21 Prior month**	Dec-20 Year Ago	Over the Month	Over the Year	3-month Moving Avg	Change from Previous 3-month Moving Avg
IL - Total Nonfarm	5,899,900	5,877,100	5,637,300	22,800	262,600	5,878,100	28,300
IL - Mining	6,600	6,600	6,600	0	0	6,600	-100
IL - Construction	235,600	233,700	222,700	1,900	12,900	232,900	2,500
IL - Manufacturing	557,000	555,100	548,400	1,900	8,600	555,000	1,700
IL - Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	1,223,200	1,214,700	1,174,900	8,500	48,300	1,214,300	9,100
IL - Information	86,100	85,900	85,000	200	1,100	85,900	-300
IL - Financial Activities	398,600	400,400	403,600	-1,800	-5,000	400,100	100
IL - Professional and Business Services	934,900	925,500	906,300	9,400	28,600	929,600	7,500
IL - Educational and Health Services	893,900	894,200	883,200	-300	10,700	894,200	-200
IL - Leisure and Hospitality	533,100	530,900	407,100	2,200	126,000	529,000	6,400
IL - Other Services	246,300	245,400	232,100	900	14,200	245,600	1,700
IL - Government	784,600	784,700	767,400	-100	17,200	784,800	-300
* Preliminary							
**Final							

- 1976-2020 seasonally adjusted labor force data for Illinois, and all other states, have been revised as required by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS). The monthly historical revisions to state labor force estimates reflect new national benchmark controls, state working-age population controls, seasonal factors, as well as updated total nonfarm jobs and unemployment benefits claims inputs. Illinois labor force data were also smoothed to eliminate large monthly changes as a result of volatility in the monthly Current Population Survey (CPS) and national benchmarking. For these reasons, the comments and tables citing unemployment rates in previous news releases/materials may no longer be valid.
- Monthly seasonally adjusted unemployment rates for Illinois and the Chicago-Naperville-Arlington Heights Metropolitan Division are available [here](#).
- Monthly 2016-2020 seasonally adjusted nonfarm payroll employment data for Illinois have been revised. To control for potential survey error, the estimates are benchmarked annually to universal counts derived primarily from unemployment insurance tax reports.
- Not seasonally adjusted jobs data with industry detail are available [here](#). “Other Services” include activities in three broad categories: personal and laundry; repair and maintenance; and religious, grant making, civic and professional organizations. Seasonally adjusted data for subsectors within industries are not available.

About the Department of Employment Security

The Illinois Department of Employment Security (IDES) provides vital employment services to Illinois workers, employers, and job seekers with resources including [Job Fairs](#) and [IllinoisJobLink.com](#), analyzes and disseminates actionable [Labor Market Information](#), and administers the [Unemployment Insurance Program](#). To see the full range of services provided by IDES, and for the latest news concerning the department, visit [IDES.Illinois.gov](#).